Border talks with China

681. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation led by National Security Adviser has recently, visited China and held discussions to maintain peace and tranquility along the border to help a speedy resolution of the protracted problem;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether to strengthen relation with China any discussion was held; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The twelfth round of Special Representatives Talks on the India-China boundary question was held in Beijing from 18 to 19 September 2008. The Special Representatives of the two countries, Mr. M K Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo, State Councillor held useful and positive discussions on the framework for the settlement of the India-China boundary question on the basis of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question signed on April 11, 2005. The two Special Representatives reaffirmed the consensus to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing, proceeding from the political perspective of overall bilateral relations. The two sides agreed that the next round of talks would be held in Delhi. The specific dates would be decided through diplomatic channels.

Suicide attack on Indian Embassy

682. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people including Indian diplomat were killed when a suicide bomber rammed into the gates of the Indian Embassy in Kabul on 7 July, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts and details of casualties/loss of property, etc., held due to suicide bomb blast;

(c) whether Government had sent a high level team for Kabul to review the situation arising out of the suicide attack; and

(d) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team and steps taken by Government to provide adequate protection to Indian diplomats and their properties in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On 7th July 2008, at 0831 local time, a vehicle borne improvised explosive device was exploded by a suicide bomber near the entrance gate of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. The attack resulted in the tragic deaths of Shri V.V. Rao, Counsellor, Brig. R.D. Mehta, Defence Attache in the Embassy and their Afghan driver Mr. Neamatullah who were in an Embassy vehicle. Constable Ajay Singh Pathania (ITBP), Constable Roop Singh (ITBP) and 55 Afghan nationals (including 11 security personnel and